

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 3 Issue 12 June 11, 2004

Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
World War II Memorial on the Mall	2
Community Profile	2
Corporation Counsel Name Changes to Attorney General	3
CityVision at the National Museum	3
2004 Asian American Heritage Month Celebration	4
Health Department Launches Tobacco Compliance Program	4
Mayor's Week in Review	5
District Activities	5
Community News	5
Upcoming Events	6

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE MAYOR
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Penn. Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 727-2980
Fax: (202) 727-6561
<http://dc.gov>

Message from the Mayor

It's hard to believe, but summer is upon us, and it's time for parents to think about activities for their children while school is out. The District of Columbia has plenty to offer for children, young people and even adults.

DC government, the foundation community, corporations, businesses and community-based organizations are committed to ensuring that our children grow up to become healthy and responsible adults. Together, we are ensuring *Safe Passages* for all children and young people.

This summer, our Department of Parks and Recreation will serve more than 5,000 young people and adults through its camps and recreation activities that include fitness, sports and cultural arts programs. Summer camps are located in every ward of the city at DC parks and recreation centers.

Recreational and educational activities are also offered through the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, which will serve 8,000 young people at 90 sites via grants to more than 45 community-based organizations.

We are going to provide 5,000 young people with summer employment, and we're partnering with the faith-based community and the private sector to provide additional summer jobs to accommodate the more than 8,700 young people who registered for the summer employment program. The Summer Youth Employment Program is a five-week temporary work experience and job readiness program for District young people ages 14-21.

The DC Public Library (DCPL) is emphasizing fun, interactive, and stimulating reading programs for young people. More than 10,000 children enrolled in the DCPL *Summer Quest Reading Program* last summer. The goal for this year is to increase that number by 40 percent. *Summer Quest* is the DCPL's traditional reading program for school age children and *HollaBack@DCPL* is a reading program specifically for teens. *HollaBack@DCPL* was a huge success last year in both the reading and book review-writing aspects, far exceeding our expectations.

District of Columbia Public Schools Summer School is also a component of the *Safe Passages Summer Program*. DCPS will operate a half-day program for students completing a year of instruction from Grade 1 through Grade 9. Summer school will provide intensive support in reading and mathematics to improve children's academic performance and to help them reach required benchmarks during the school year. Summer school will be held July 6 through August 10 from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm.

The *State Education Office Summer Food Service Program* will provide any District young person up to age 18 with a free nutritious breakfast and/or lunch. Meals will be served through the Summer Food Service Program at hundreds of sites throughout the city.

Finally, this year we are publishing the first-ever *Safe Passages 2004 Summer Guide*. The guide contains a wealth of information on summer camps, summer school, and community-based programs. It was delivered to all households in the District in late May, and it will also be available in public libraries and parks and recreation sites.

Information on all of these summer programs is available from the website, <http://summeryouthprogram.dc.gov>, and also by calling (202) 463-6211.

I hope everyone has a safe, fun and productive summer here in Washington, DC!



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

World War II Memorial on the Mall

Memorial Day weekend 2004 will long be remembered as a very special time in Washington, DC. We welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to our city to commemorate the opening of the new National World War II Memorial at 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

I joined in many of the events on the National Mall, including the memorial dedication on May 29, which featured President Bush speaking to thousands of veterans and other visitors. It was a spectacular spring day here in Washington, with the sun shining and a light breeze in the air. It was an honor to have so many World War II veterans here for such an historic weekend.



More than 20 percent of District of Columbia war veterans are World War II veterans. That's 9,269 DC World War II veterans out of a total of 44,484 war veterans. The DC Office of Veterans Affairs, DC veterans and their families and local veteran service organizations helped coordinate and participated in all of the official National World War II memorial Dedication activities.

As an extended part of the celebration, five DC World War II veterans from the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Northeast were selected as guests of France and accompanied President Bush and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Normandy in early June to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day forces landing on the beaches of Normandy.

On May 28, I also joined a host of African American leaders for a reception honoring black veterans at the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. This was an historic opportunity for the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus to thank and salute our African American Veterans.

Community Profile

Julie Weihe

Ward 3 resident Julie Weihe is a second generation Washingtonian whose favorite thing to do is read. She has been sharing her love of reading for more than five years with students at Scott Montgomery Elementary School through the *Experience Corps Tutoring and Mentoring Program*. Julie is a dedicated volunteer to the program.

"I got started and got hooked," Julie said. She will tell you about how she has mentored Tarnisha for four years and was the one who taught her the alphabet and how to spell her name. She will show you pictures of her young mentees hugging her neck with big smiles. "They are all special," Julie said.



Julie Weihe

Julie was one of the first reading tutors to join Experience Corps and spends twice a week throughout the school year working one-on-one with children. *Experience Corps* is a national program designed to mobilize the time, talent and wisdom of adults age 55 and over on the behalf of children. Julie's service helps children improve their reading skills and provides the individual attention they need.

Julie is the January 2004 adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, awarded by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit <http://serve.dc.gov> for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Corporation Counsel Name Changes to Attorney General

On May 26, I signed a Mayor's Order changing the name of the Office of the Corporation Counsel (OCC) for the District of Columbia to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. My Order also re-designates Robert Spagnoletti, the Corporation Counsel, as the first Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

This change is long overdue. It will, at long last, recognize the reality of what the District's Office of the Corporation Counsel does. The name, "Office of the Corporation Counsel" has been in use since 1902. In that year, Congress substituted the term "Corporation Counsel" for the term "City Solicitor" in a statute governing the District government.

At that time, the District government's statutory duties were strictly municipal in character. Therefore, the name "Office of the Corporation Counsel" was appropriate. By the mid-20th Century, however, OCC had grown substantially in responsibility, size, and stature.

As the District government's chief law office, OCC handles many duties including:

- Child support enforcement
- Prosecution of civil antitrust actions
- Civil prosecution of environmental laws

District law authorizes me, as Mayor, to unilaterally change the name of OCC. This change does not constitute a "reorganization" or change OCC's functions. Thus, Council approval is not required.

The name change does not affect our parallel effort to obtain congressional approval of a locally-elected District Attorney for the District of Columbia. That proposal would transfer the authority to prosecute DC felonies and major misdemeanors from the Office of the US Attorney for the District of Columbia to a locally-elected DA.

Like most state Attorneys General, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia is not the District's "top cop" for bringing adult criminal prosecutions. If the Congress approves the proposal for an elected DA, that officer, not the District's Attorney General, will initiate most adult criminal prosecutions.

CityVision at the National Museum

On June 2, I paid tribute to our city's unique partnership with *CityVision*, which I believe is one of the boldest and most innovative programs to help tap young talent in our city.

In 1993 the National Building Museum created the *CityVision* program to help young teens in Washington's inner city learn that they can make a positive impact on their community now and later in life.

The goals of the program are to:

- Teach problem-solving, teamwork, and advocacy through the processes and products of design, specifically urban planning
- Expose students to positive role models in architecture, urban planning, and other design-related professions
- Stimulate inner-city teens to become active participants in shaping DC communities

Each spring and fall, 35 students from DCPS middle and junior high schools come to the National Building Museum to learn about urban planning and then to develop site-specific projects to improve their own neighborhoods.

During the 13 day-long sessions and under the tutelage of museum staff and volunteer instructors, students learn basic concepts and skills of design and urban planning. They also learn about the history of the three neighborhoods where they have been assigned to develop projects, and they explore these neighborhoods on foot and survey residents.

City planning is vitally important. It goes to our identity, our esteem, and our self-confidence. It also goes to our vision. Again, congratulations to this year's 35 *CityVision* participants.



2004 Asian American Heritage Month Celebration

On May 27, I joined hundreds of citizens from our city's Asian community for the inspiring 2004 Asian American Heritage Month Celebration. The Heritage Month Celebration began with a cultural fair and workshops. At the cultural fair, more than 18 embassies and a multitude of cultural organizations contributed and displayed cultural relics and treasures from their respective countries at their designated booths.

The vitality and strength of Asian and Pacific American culture lies in its diversity, rich tradition, and heritage. Last month, I proclaimed the month of May as Asian and Pacific American Heritage month in the nation's capital to recognize the contributions made by many members of your community.

Like many of our city's immigrants, Asian Americans came to this city more than 100 years ago. Asian American residents have now spread to most of our wards, and Asian-owned small businesses are located in almost every block of the city.

To celebrate Asian American heritage, the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications Pacific Islander Affairs and Cable TV recently put together a TV show called *wAsian-tonians*. This show airs through June on City Cable Channel 16. I encourage our residents to watch this program and learn more about Asian Pacific Americans and the particular challenges they face as a community.

In our city government we have Asians serving as the Chief Financial Officer, as police officers, teachers, administrators and as service front line employees. The Mayor's Call Center at (202) 727-1000 now has three employees who can assist callers in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.

In May, I signed into law the Language Access Act, which requires DC government agencies to provide written and oral translation of vital documents for residents with limited English abilities. This is only the beginning. My goal is to deliver on my pledge to serve all the people who live and work in the city.

At the conclusion of the May 27 celebration, we held an awards ceremony honoring those individuals who have shown ongoing dedication within the District's Asian Pacific Islander community. I presented awards to five individuals: Kenny Temsupasiri, Judy Moy, Vincent Crisostomo, Dr. Shi-Hua Wu and Tuan-Anh Van.

Health Department Launches Tobacco Compliance Program

Cigarette smoking is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States.

Giving our young people access to cigarettes endangers their lives. Cigarette smoking can lead to lung cancer, emphysema and other respiratory diseases. However, research indicates that if we can keep a young person from smoking until the age of 21, he or she is less likely to develop the habit as an adult.

To keep cigarettes away from young people, our District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) is launching a year-round testing and compliance in conjunction with the Synar Tobacco Compliance Program.

Former Oklahoma Congressman Mike Synar's Amendment to the Public Health Service Act requires that states ensure that vendors do not sell cigarettes or other tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding is tied to the compliance rate.

The District was found to be out-of-compliance in FY 2003 because too many vendors were willing to sell cigarettes to minors. So, let me reiterate to our city's vendors: it is a crime to sell single cigarettes, packs of cigarettes or other tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.

Robert Johnson, Senior Deputy Director, Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration, visited last week with local vendors to launch the aggressive campaign to ensure that vendors do not sell tobacco products to minors. The vendors are being given materials and posters to display in their businesses to deter youth from attempting to purchase tobacco products from their establishment.

Mr. Johnson put vendors on notice that DOH will employ "undercover stings" where youth will be sent out to attempt to purchase tobacco products. If a vendor is willing to sell the products to a minor, he will be cited as out of compliance with the law. The maximum penalty is \$1,000 and 90 days in jail for repeat offenders.

We urge all vendors: please obey the law and help protect our youth. Do not sell tobacco products to young people. The message is simple: if you violate the law, you will pay the price.



Mayor's Week in Review

Mayor Participates in National World War II Memorial events

On **May 28, 29 and 30**, I participated in several events surrounding the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall. On **May 31**, I also participated in and delivered remarks at a Memorial Day celebration held in Logan Circle Park in Northwest.

Mayor Delivers Remarks at New Leaders Reception

On **June 2**, I delivered remarks at the New Leaders for New Schools "Meet the New Leaders 2004" reception, which introduced the DC foundation and business communities to our New Leaders—the city's future outstanding public school principals graduating in June 2004.

Mayor Speaks to Board of Trade Potomac Conference

On **June 3**, I spoke at the Board of Trade Potomac Conference Summer meeting on health care in our city.

Mayor Attends GSA Gala

On **June 3**, I attended and served as an Honorary Co-Chair at a gala honoring the US General Services Administration (GSA).

Mayor Attends Two Funerals for MPD officers

On **June 4**, I attended and delivered remarks at a funeral for Metropolitan Police Department Sgt. John Ashley. Ashley, 37, collapsed on the 1600 block of 30th Street, NW, while assisting a resident who was trying to catch a dog. On **June 7**, I attended and delivered remarks at funeral for MPD Sgt. Clifton Rife. Sgt. Rife was slain while off duty in Oxon Hill.

Mayor Participates in Race for the Cure

On the morning of **June 5**, I participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on the National Mall.

Mayor Joins Faith Leaders in Walk of Remembrance

On **June 5**, I joined faith leaders from around the city for a Walk of Remembrance marking the violent deaths of children in the city.

District Activities



Mayor Williams attended the formal dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall Saturday, May 29.



On Wednesday, June 2, Mayor Williams and tennis great Zina Garrison participated in a game of tennis at Freedom Plaza during launch of the District's *Safe Passages 2004 Program*.



On Saturday, June 5, Mayor Williams and local religious leaders participated in *UniLove A Walk of Remembrance* held in Southeast Washington.



Community News

- [DC Housing Authority Wins \\$20 Million in Funding for Eastgate Garden](#)
- [Mayor Williams Testifies before House Subcommittee on City Budget](#)
- [MPDC Testifies Before City Council on Pursuit Policy](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 6/18 | SideWalk Housing Fair
11am—3 pm
Department of Housing and Community Development |
| 6/19 | Ward Eight Economic Development Summit
9am—3 pm
Patricia Roberts Harris Elementary Education Center
4600 Livingston Road, SE |

Mayor Williams Honors Memory of President Ronald Reagan 1911-2004



As the nation reflects on the legacy of President Reagan, we should recognize that his life embodied the greatness of America. His was a public life, yet he will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and friend. His conservative politics and old-fashioned values were balanced with warmth, humor and unbridled optimism about the future of America. As we honor him in this time of mourning, we cannot help but recall his vision for a better America. As he often said, "America is too great for small dreams."

